

**Enhance, Inc.**

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Neva St. Louis
Executive Director

February 24, 2006

Dear Representative Drolet,

I am writing to request your support of Senate Bills 1026-1030 and House Bills 5744-5745 on Tuesday, February 28, 2006. Together these bills amend the Adult Foster Care Facility Licensing Act, Public Health Code, Mental Health Code, Administrative Procedures Act and Social Welfare Act. Collectively, the enactment of these statutory amendments is essential to the providers of residential direct care services in Michigan.

Enhance, Inc. provides a wide array of support services to vulnerable adults in 45+ residential settings. Many of our consumers live in our licensed adult foster care homes where we provide 24-hour personal care, supervision and protection for some of the most vulnerable adults in the community. Your support of these Senate and House bills are essential to our welfare as a licensed residential service provider and the welfare of the over 50,000 vulnerable adults served in setting such as ours throughout Michigan.

Without this legislation, our already limited resources will be wrongfully diverted away from the people we serve to burdensome administrative tasks primarily because our workforce is not organized by a labor union. Michigan providers of direct care services continue to believe that our state licensing rules should be neutral as to an organization's union status. Licensing rules and standards should be applied equally to providers in this field regardless of the status of their workforce.

The business of monitoring the safe operations of licensed residential settings should be the priority of the Michigan Department of Human Services and Community Health Department...leaving the task of monitoring labor relations to the established agencies that have the experience and authority to perform those functions.

Your support of Senate Bills 1026-1030 and House Bills 5744-5745 on Tuesday, February 28, 2006 will make the issue of union status, wages and benefits secondary to the continued delivery of quality residential services to the individuals we served in Michigan.

On behalf of providers, caregivers and most importantly the vulnerable adults we serve I thank you for support of Senate Bills 1026-1030 and House Bills 5744-5745.

Neva St. Louis, Executive Director
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